

## METHOD OF OPERATING A VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK

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### Abstract of the Disclosure

10 A method of operating a virtual private network includes the steps  
of: (a) dialing a custom number; (b) receiving the custom number at a  
switch (20) of a first carrier; (c) routing the call to a switch (18) of a  
second carrier based on having received the custom number; and (d)  
when the call to the switch (18) of the second carrier includes a plain old  
telephone number translation of the customer number, routing the call  
over the second carrier to a service switching point (26) of a third  
15 carrier.